



Village of Savoy

Robert C. McCleary Municipal Center
611 North Dunlap Avenue
Savoy, IL

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MINUTES OF</u> <u>BOARD OF TRUSTEE STUDY SESSION</u></p>
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DATE: September 11, 2019 PLACE: ROBERT C. MCCLEARY MUNICIPAL CENTER
611 North Dunlap Avenue
Savoy, IL 61874

TRUSTEES PRESENT: President Joan E. Dykstra, Trustees John P. Brown, Heather Mangian,
Jan Carter Niccum, A.J. Ruggieri, Dee Shonkwiler, and Bill Vavrik

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

OFFICERS AND
PERSONNEL PRESENT: Richard Helton, Village Manager
Dan Davies, Zoning Administrator
Dennis Donaldson, Village Treasurer
Marc Miller, Village Attorney
Billie Jean Krueger, Village Clerk

OFFICERS AND
PERSONNEL ABSENT: Levi Kopmann, Assistant Village Manager/Public Works/Engineer

GUESTS: Joseph "Joey" Morton, 412 Gentian, Savoy
Kris Hamblin, 307 E. Tomaras Ave., Savoy
Marilyn Hancock, 911 Wesley Ave., Savoy
James Onderdonk, Savoy
William Smith, 207 N. Dunlap Ave, Savoy

CONVENED: 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURNED: 8:15 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL TAKEN

Chairman Ruggieri called the monthly open and public Board of Trustees Study Session to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called of President Dykstra and the Trustees, with all answering present, and a quorum declared.

Chairman Ruggieri asked for a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of the heroes of September 11, 2001 and the nearly 3,000 individuals who lost their lives.

2. BUSINESS:

A. AUTHORIZE THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE AN EASEMENT TO AMEREN ILLINOIS ON PROPERTY AT 101 N. DUNLAP AVE., SAVOY, IL

Trustee Vavrik moved to authorize the Village President to execute a permanent Easement, as presented, to Ameren Illinois on property at 101 N. Dunlap Ave., Savoy, IL, seconded by Trustee Niccum;

By Trustee vote: Brown, yes; Mangian, yes; Niccum, yes; Ruggieri, yes; Shonkwiler, yes; and Vavrik, yes.

Absent: None

Motion carried.

B. DISCUSSION ON MARIJUANA /RECREATIONAL CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS IN SAVOY

Village Attorney Marc Miller gave an overall summary of an Illinois Municipal League update dated 9-19-19 on Frequently Asked Questions – Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act-Public Act 101-0027.

Chairman Ruggieri asked for public participation on marijuana legalization to be effective January 1, 2020, and how it will impact Savoy.

Public Participation was as follows:

Joseph “Joey” Morton – Morton stated he was in favor of cannabis sales because of the tax benefits to the Village and because of the potential benefits of marijuana, citing a friend who had abused alcohol, but then turned to marijuana, and through the use of cannabis, he was able to actually return back to school and was essentially a stable member of society.

William Smith – Smith stated he was concerned that if the Planning Commission bans or allows dispensaries in Savoy, and if allowed, he would be against allowing it in open spaces, like the parks in the Village of Savoy where there are children and he believes if allowed, would be a detriment to Savoy. He also stated that St. Joe has made a decision not to allow it and Monticello did pass the tax sales of cannabis up to 3 percent.

Jim Onderdonk – Onderdonk also stated he also knows people who used recreational marijuana to deal with ailments such as Parkinson’s and MS and he believes there would be benefits for recreational marijuana such as 1) bring in revenue; 2) bring in jobs; 3) support agriculture; and 4) because it is legal; and doesn’t know why we should restrict a legal activity. Also, he doesn’t expect a dispensary to open in Savoy, but he thinks it would behoove us to have a welcoming policy and don’t discourage it.

Kris Hamblin – Hamblin stated she would prefer cannabis not be sold in Savoy, if it were to be, she was concerned about where it would be allowed to be used and how the policy would deal with impaired drivers.

Marilyn Hancock – Hancock stated she was in opposition, because her niece in Texas had been addicted to it and had been sent to a rehab and after rehab had continued to smoke marijuana in her home in front of her children, leading child protection services to not allow her to be alone with her children, ages 1 and 4, which made a stressful like for her as their mother, and this got to be very cumbersome. Hancock also stated that there are children involved in all of this too, and it is not just individuals who want to smoke marijuana making consequences for their children and for the adults.

Chairman Ruggieri thanked everyone for their input on this important topic.

Village Attorney Marc Miller clarified that once adult-use recreational marijuana becomes legal on January 1, 2020, it would be treated like tobacco and would not be allowed to be smoked in public places, including parks. Also, driving while smoking would be treated by law enforcement like any other impairment and was beyond the Village's control.

Miller stated the Board of Trustees really has three choices:

- 1) Do nothing;
- 2) Figure out concerns and limit areas to zone; and
- 3) Tax it by imposing a municipal tax up to 3% of gross receipts.

Miller also suggested that the Village might need to look at its personnel policy, since the law allows for restriction/prohibition of drug use, it probably makes sense to revisit drug policies in existing personnel policies to make sure of compatibility with both the Cannabis Act and Right to Privacy in the workplace.

Some of the Trustees said that in their conversations with Savoy residents, opinion seems split on the issue of allowing sales of marijuana.

Trustee Mangian said that she believes some are in favor of it and would collect the tax dollar, see it as a business and have no problem with it, and an equal number oppose it. So, at this point, there is no clear indication from the residents she has spoken with.

Trustee Mangian also presented a copy of an email she received from "Derryl" opposing recreational sales in the Village.

Trustee Niccum stated his cousin owns a dispensary in Colorado Springs and after conversations with him, he wasn't concerned about an increase in crime, but was about an increase in DUIs. Also, he did not believe farmers in our area would grow hemp because it is very labor intensive.

Trustee Ruggieri stated some similar concerns about driving while impaired by marijuana use, because he questioned, "What is the risk of danger to our citizens, and we all know, it is illegal to drink and drive in Savoy and people do that all the time". Ruggieri also expressed concern about what it would mean for the village's representation to allow sales and do we want to have that perception as being a Village that accepts dispensaries and do we as citizens of Savoy want it within our borders. Also, he thinks that's really the basic thing that Savoy needs to come to a decision on and we just need to get more information and more input from our constituents.

Trustee Brown stated he believes Savoy just needs to catch up and agrees with Ruggieri that Savoy needs to get more information and more input from its constituents.

Trustee Vavrik stated he wanted more information about what it would mean for the Village to have a dispensary, and what is the impact of a dispensary on a community? He also stated, under the new law, local towns can't prevent residents from using recreational marijuana in their homes, and consumption is going to happen in Savoy no matter what this Board of Trustees does at this point.

Trustee Shonkwiler stated he was worried with the number of alcohol related accidents, this will build on it and he is not in favor of allowing dispensaries in Savoy.

Trustee Niccum stated that September 30 is a tight deadline to make a decision on imposing a municipal tax up to 3% on gross receipts.

Attorney Miller stated that the City of Paxton made the decision on the tax only at this time and the City of Monticello said yes to the tax, but did not allow sales. So, it might be good to make the decision on the 3% tax if Savoy wants to get in.

President Dykstra stated she thinks it makes sense to wait and see how dispensaries work for other communities. Also, we can't do anything about marijuana in somebody's home and all the Board of Trustees are is a policy body of what we want in our community and she believes the Board should err on the side of caution and wait and see, since there is a dispensary really close to Savoy, so it's not like people from Savoy won't be able to buy marijuana. President Dykstra stated she is really concerned about the community. She would be in favor of it for medicinal purposes, but not for recreational.

Champaign Unit 4 School District:

Trustee Niccum presented information concerning the 2016 Referendum projects and how much over budget Unit 4 is spending.

3. ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the open and public Board of Trustees Study Session meeting, Chairman Ruggieri adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Billie Jean Krueger

Billie Jean Krueger, Village Clerk

This meeting was recorded.

Minutes approved this 2nd day of October, 2019.

Billie Jean Krueger